

own Holocaust experience, to forge a bright future for himself, his family, and the Jewish people.

Simon Konover has dedicated his life to the cultural renewal of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. A tireless community servant and a good friend, I can think of no better person to receive Israel Bond's New Life Award. Simon, his wife Doris, and their four children reside in Hartford, where they attend Beth El Temple. Simon has volunteered much of his time toward the betterment of the Jewish community. Simon's tremendous motivation stems from his personal Holocaust experience.

A survivor of the labor camps in Poland and Siberia, who also fought in the battle of Stalingrad, Simon has championed numerous Jewish and civic causes. He is the past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Greater Hartford Israel Bond Campaign, and the Connecticut Society of Yad Vashem, an honorary life member of the Greater Hartford Jewish Community and the Hebrew Home and Hospital. Simon held the national vice-chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal in 1987-88, is an overseer at the Jewish Theological Seminary, a director of American Organization for Rehabilitation and Training for immigrants from Israel, and a member of the Israel Bond's President's Club. As a founder of the Holocaust museum, Simon raised and contributed a significant amount of money to complete this much needed historical archive for people from all over the world.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Simon Konover for his endurance and his perseverance on behalf of the Jewish community and the people of Israel. This well deserved award could only be presented to a man like Simon Konover who has constantly worked to enhance the lives of the Jewish community and the people of Israel.

THE ARMY PUBLICATION CENTER
IN BALTIMORE, MD

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 1995

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 102, the recommendation to disapprove of the BRAC list, places me—like many of my colleagues—in the difficult position of supporting an important process, which I respect, while disapproving the circumstances and final decision involving the closure of the Army Publications Center in Baltimore, MD. It is easy to understand why the concept of the BRAC Commission was designed to allow an independent body to render decisions that Congress must completely accept or reject. I echo many of my colleagues who have praised the BRAC process, while disapproving of closing specific bases. However, as a legislator that prefers to deal with the facts, let me make the following observations:

The Army Publications Center falls below the BRAC threshold and does not need the Commission's approval or disapproval for closure. Simply stated, the Publications Center did not belong on the BRAC list.

When it came time for voting, the Commission based its decision on the Army's erroneous justifications and inaccurate statements.

The Army supplied the commissioners with misleading data which the Publication Center and I consistently refuted. In the end, the Army, so determined to close the Baltimore Center and consolidate operations to St. Louis, convinced enough commissioners this highly technological, extremely efficient center located in Middle River, MD, was in need of closure.

When my base realized it was slated for closure, the employees did not criticize or complain. Instead, they offered real solutions to achieve true savings for the Department of Defense while increasing military readiness. They Army, however, would not consider this commonsense approach of evaluating and consolidating all DOD publications centers.

Summarily, I reject the argument that the Baltimore Publications Center, winner of Vice President GORE's hammer award and the Army's communities of excellence award, is a base worthy of such closure. This superior center, with its hardworking employees, served our troops with pride during the Persian Gulf war. A center, such as the one located in Baltimore, should be judged on its merits, not Washington politics. So I find myself in the unenviable position of voting against this resolution, but with serious reservations and feelings of disappointment. Disappointments for the employees of the Baltimore Center that worked tirelessly for something they believed in and disappointment in a process where facts and individual merit should have carried the day.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY MORAVEC

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today and call your attention to Bobby Moravec of Calumet Township, IN. Bobby's story serves as an inspiration to residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, as well as all Americans. This year, Bobby, who has Down's Syndrome, competed in the Special Olympic World Games against over 700 athletes from 143 countries around the world. Bobby succeeded in winning a bronze medal for the shot put and a fifth place ribbon for the softball throw. Bobby also placed sixth in the 50-meter race.

Bobby, a student at Merrillville High School, was nominated for the World Games, the largest sporting event in the world, by Laura Smith, treasurer for the Special Olympics group sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Special Education Co-op in Crown Point, IN. Because Bobby had won a gold medal in last year's Indiana State games, he was then chosen to advance to the World Games as an athlete on the 10-member Indiana track and field team.

Bobby has been active in the Regional Special Olympic games for 9 years and the State Special Olympic games for 5 years. He has earned four gold, six silver and one bronze medal for events ranging from the 50-meter race, the softball throw, basketball, the standing long jump, the shot put, and skiing.

Bobby trains 3 days a week at Merrillville High School. His vigorous training schedule includes a day of weight lifting, walking and run-

ning around the track, and practicing the shot put and softball throw. According to Bobby's parents, Ed and Marge Moravec, his coach, Maxine Urbanczyk of Merrillville, IN, was there at each training session to prepare him for the World Games. Ed and Marge add that she gave him encouragement when he needed it and praise when he deserved it. They say that the Special Olympics needs more coaches like Maxine.

When Bobby cannot be found in the training room, he may be participating in the other activities that he loves so much. Bobby may be fishing, playing on the Challenger softball and basketball team, or bowling. During football season, Bobby can be found at Andrean High School football games, where he has been the ball boy for the last 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other colleagues congratulate and commend Bobby for his hard work and dedication to succeed, not only in the Special Olympic World Games, but in his everyday life. In a world where success doesn't come easy, Bobby has proven to be an exception to the rule.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 1995

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, because I was unavoidably delayed in my return to Washington from California on Wednesday, September 6, 1995, I sought and was granted a leave of absence. During my absence, I missed three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 636, ordering the previous question on House Resolution 206;

I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 637, motion to recommit the legislative branch appropriations conference report; and

I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 638, approval of the legislative branch appropriations conference report.

I ask that this statement be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

VIVIEN NORMAN RETIRES; AIDE
TO FOUR CONGRESSMEN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 8, 1995

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Vivien Norman, the mainstay of my district office in Auburn, NY, and my ear to ground in all of Cayuga County in upstate New York, is as much a part of the fabric of Cayuga County as any officeholder, past or present, any businessman or woman, any farmer or merchant, any industrialist, prison guard, or health care professional. In many of our minds, she is the person to call to confirm news, flesh out a rumor, recall details or to set up a meeting. In our hearts, she is intelligent, friendly, uniquely humorous, and eminently dependable.

She is retiring now, at a young but wise age. Her history in service to four Congressmen, including my father, William F. Walsh, is a story of helping people. I am as proud to